

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 298847

62

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 SSO-00 SS-15 SAM-01 SP-02

EUR-12 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:PDMOLINEAUX:JJB

APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS

DOD/ISA - RBURCH

NEA/ARP - FMDICKMAN

----- 091936

O 190128Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 298847

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED BRIEFING POINTS ON YEMEN

REF: STATE 288586

FOR ATHERTON FROM DUBS

1. AMBASSADOR SCOTES WILL BE SEEING YOU IN JIDDA ON DECEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATE OF SAG-YARG RELATIONS, AS WELL AS YAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. YAR PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI HAS BEEN IN SAUDI ARABIA THIS WEEK, BOTH FOR HAJJ PILGRIMAGE AND FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUDI LEADERS, AND MAY HAVE RETURNED TO SANA BEFORE YOUR OWN ARRIVAL. IN COURSE OF YOUR OWN TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR SCOTES, CHARGE HORAN, AND SAUDI LEADERS, YOU WILL ALSO WANT TO REVIEW SAUDI-YAR SITUATION.

2. SINCE BRIEFING MEMO TO THE SECRETARY ON DECEMBER 7 (REFTEL BEING REPEATED TO JIDDA FOR YOUR REFERENCE), FOLLOWING NEW DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE: WE HAVE LEARNED THAT YEMENIS DID NOT IN FACT ACCEPT LARGE-SCALE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 298847

SOVIET OFFER OF NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT. YEMENI MILITARY

MISSION TO MOSCOW DID ACCEPT SOVIET OFFER OF REPLACEMENT FOR SOVIET-ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN YAR, TO INCLUDE MIG-17'S AND T-34'S. SOVIETS, ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, MADE LARGE-SCALE OFFER OF SQUADRON OF MIG-

21'S, T-54/55'S, ARTILLERY, AND AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT, PROVIDED THAT HAMDI PERSONALLY VISIT MOSCOW IN NEAR FUTURE AND THAT YARG ACCEPT INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS. YARG HAS NOT, REPEAT NOT, ACTED ON THIS OFFER.

3. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED FROM COL. FIFER MORE ABOUT ON-GOING SAUDI MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YAR: IT IS MORE EXTENSIVE THAN WE HAD PREVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD. WITHIN RECENT MONTHS, SAUDIS HAVE GIVEN YAR 12 US-ORIGIN 105 MM HOWITZERS, 15 FRENCH APC'S, AND EQUIPMENT OF JAPANESE ORIGIN FOR ONE ENTIRE ENGINEER BATTALION. SAUDIS HAVE ALSO INCREASED TRAINING ACTIVITIES: 12 YEMENI OFFICERS ARE NOW RECEIVING TRAINING IN SAUDI ARABIA ON HOWITZERS. THE SAUDIS HAVE OFFERED TO TRAIN SIX OFFICERS ON TECHNICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS ASPECTS OF APC'S AND TO TEACH THEM FRENCH FOR FURTHER TRAINING IN FRANCE; THE SAUDIS HAVE EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO TRAIN TEN ADDITIONAL YEMENIS AT SAUDI AIR ACADEMY (SIX ARE ALREADY THERE), AND HAVE OFFERED TO ACCEPT AN ADDITIONAL 40 YEMENI JUNIOR OFFICERS AT SAUDI MILITARY ACADEMY FOR BASIC BRANCH TRAINING (IN ADDITION TO SOME 20 YEMENIS ALREADY THERE). IT IS CLEAR THAT, LARGELY WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH US, SAG HAS ALREADY BEGUN AT LEAST SOME MODERNIZATION OF YAR ARMED FORCES.

4. WE NOW HAVE CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS OF SAUDI POLITICAL CONTEXT VIS-A-VIS YEMEN. PRINCE SULTAN HAS STATED THAT HE FAVORS YAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM BUT HIS LONGSTANDING TRIBAL AND PERSONAL CONNECTIONS, AS WELL AS HIS DESIRE TO SEE HAMDI PROVE HIMSELF WITH TIME, MAY HAVE LED HIM TO DELAY. SULTAN HAS HINTED THAT FAHD HAS BEEN SOURCE OF SAG DELAY. IT MAY BE THAT FAHD IN HIS EFFORT TO WEAN PDRY AWAY FROM SOVIET FOLD, HAS NOT WANTED TO FRIGHTEN ADENIS AT THIS TIME. IT MAY BE THAT FAHD IS PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE WITHIN SAG TO FIRM, UNEQUIVOCAL, LONG-SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 298847

TERM SAUDI COMMITMENT TO YAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION.

5. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS YOU MIGHT WANT TO USE FOR YOUR TALKS WITH SAUDI LEADERS, ASSUMING EMBASSIES JIDDA AND SANA CONCUR, AND SUBJECT TO WHATEVER MODIFICATION YOU DEEM DESIRABLE BASED ON ANY INFORMATION YOU RECEIVE ON THE RESULTS OF HAMDI VISIT THIS WEEK TO SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE YOUR TALKS:

-- USG REGARDS RECENT TENSION IN SAUDI -YEMENI RELATIONS AS MOST UNFORTUNATE, DETRIMENTAL TO INTERESTS OF OUR THREE COUNTRIES. SHOULD YEMENIS ACCEPT SECOND SOVIET OFFER OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE - WHICH WE REGARD AS REAL POSSIBILITY IN LIGHT OF PRESSURES ON AL-HAMDI FROM

DOMESTIC YEMENI LEFT, NEW ERA OF INSTABILITY IN ARABIAN PENINSULA COULD BEGIN. WE BELIEVE HAMDI IS PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO CLOSE RELATIONS WITH SAG AND USG, BUT THAT HIS OWN POLITICAL SURVIVAL DEPENDS IN LARGE MEASURE ON HIS ABILITY TO SHOW RESULTS IN MILITARY FIELD FROM THIS CONNECTION. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM LIES IN FIRM SAUDI COMMITMENT TO YAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

-- WE COMPLIMENT SAUDI ARABIA ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE IT HAS ALREADY GIVEN YAR, INCLUDING ARTILLERY, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEMENI OFFICERS IN SAUDI MILITARY SCHOOLS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YARG UNDERSTAND THAT THESE STEPS ARE PART OF A LONG-TERM PROGRAM. THIS WOULD GIVE AL-HAMDI POLITICAL AMMUNITION HE NEEDS TO REJECT SOVIET AND LEFTIST PRESSURES IN SANA, KEEP PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS WITHIN ARMY IN LINE, AND ACCOMMODATE DISSIDENT TRIBAL ELEMENTS. PERHAPS THIS CAN BEST BE DONE THROUGH A FORMAL AGREEMENT OR A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN YOUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, OUTLINING YOUR COMMITMENT TO A LONG-TERM AND COMPREHENSIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO YAR.

-- USG HAS, AS YOU KNOW, PREPARED SEVERAL LETTERS OF OFFER WHICH WOULD, WE BELIEVE, BE SUITABLE DEMONSTRATION OF INITIATION OF LONG-TERM PROGRAM. I WISH TO REAFFIRM TO  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 298847

YOU CONTINUED USG LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS LOGISTICALLY POSSIBLE IN MAKING MILITARY EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO YAR. OUR EXISTING LETTERS OF OFFER ARE INTENDED ONLY AS A FIRST STEP, AND WE CONTINUE PREPARED TO LOOK FAVORABLY UPON ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT.

-- WE HOPE THAT YOU AND YARG CAN COMPOSE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON ROLE OF TRIBAL LEADERS IN YAR POLITICAL STRUCTURE. WE SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT TRIBAL LEADERS SHOULD NOT BE COMPLETELY EXCLUDED FROM YAR POLITICAL PROCESS. HOWEVER, WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT - AS IN SAUDI ARABIA ITSELF IN RECENT DECADES - YAR IS SEEKING TO BUILD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE A MODERN GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE. WE BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF COLONEL AL-

HAMDI AND TRIBAL LEADERS CAN BE COMPOSED IN FASHION WHICH  
WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE DEEPLY FELT YAR DESIRE FOR POLITICAL,  
SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE298847  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** PDMOLINEAUX:JJB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750441-0065  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751227/aaaaaxki.tel  
**Line Count:** 172  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 288586  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SUGGESTED BRIEFING POINTS ON YEMEN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, YE, XF, UR, US  
**To:** AMMAN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006